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Chapter 1 by Lord Yorxid

'Theodore Reslin Oakley is a purely humble young man, who did not mean any harm or offense by this action, (which I will mention should **not** be punishable, especially by Containment) but all the same, I doubt you'll catch me this time. On a second note, I intend to return the stolen object to this location when I am done using it, which will be in approximately nine days. Thank you for accepting my apology, and really, do work on your security. We couldn't have anyone stealing anything.'

Theodore looked at the card, setting it in the place of the now stolen crystal. He tugged on the rope suspending him in the air, and with a satisfied grin, ascended into the hole cut in the ceiling.

Unfortunately, in that precise moment, blaring spotlights flooded through the windows of the mansion, and Theo was caught in a magical Still beam. His nanobot rope slowly unraveled and slithered back into its normal place as a cloak on his back, and the crystal dropped to the ground. Theo sighed. He probably *could* have worn something more inconspicuous than his

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"It's only part of the job, Theo," said a Cebota officer who had just walked into the building. She had the standard black vest every officer had to wear, but under that she had a dark purple shirt and black pants. She also had long braided blonde hair and brown eyes.

The girl had picked up and read the card Theo left. "This is a bit ironic. You say they should improve security so nothing is stolen, and then immediately get caught stealing something."

"That's the joke. I *would* have successfully taken the gem."

Chance Synfar raised her eyebrows. "And how's that going so far?"

"Admittedly not as well as I had planned, but —"

"Nothing ever goes as well as you plan. Now you won't try anything if I let you down from there, will you?"

Theo grinned slyly. "Do I ever?"

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